

Remarks

Reconsideration is requested.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Schmidt (U.S. 5,380,279).

Applicant's attorney discussed the cited reference and the rejection with the examiner on May 10 and pointed out the essential differences between the teachings of the cited reference and the features of the present invention. The examiner agreed to reconsider the Section 102(b) rejection in light of the differences in the structure and intended operation of the Schmidt apparatus on the one hand and the apparatus of the present invention on the other hand.

Applicant's invention pertains to a multi-dose cartridge system in which one squeeze of the trigger dispenses only one single dose of medicament from the pre-filled multi-dose cartridge, leaving more doses in the cartridge to be dispensed individually with subsequent operations of the trigger. On the other hand, the Schmidt apparatus is a two-stage, two chamber, cylinder pump system with a metering chamber. It does not use an independent, removable, disposable cartridge. Thus, in the Schmidt apparatus, a single dose of the medicament must first be pushed into the metering chamber 37 from a supply chamber 27. Then when piston 41 is moved upwardly in chamber 37 the medicament is forced out through the needle. In order to

dispense a second dose of medicament, it is again necessary to re-fill metering chamber 37 with fresh material.

In Schmidt's apparatus, 43 is not a metering tab but rather it is merely the anterior end of chamber 37.

Furthermore, in applicant's apparatus, the plunger is located in the cartridge between the tab means and the anterior end of the cartridge. This is illustrated, for example, in applicant's Figs. 1A and 2A where the tab means 18 is shown close to the posterior end of the cartridge and the plunger rod 28 extends into the cartridge past the tab means to force the plunger on the anterior end of the plunger rod to dispense the medicament out through the anterior end of the cartridge.

Also, in applicant's invention the detent means is moveable by the trigger. The preferred detent means is the metering rod 24 which is connected to the upper end of the trigger. See Figs. 1A and 2A. When the trigger is squeezed to dispense one dose of medicament, the metering rod 24 is moved forwardly by the trigger until it contacts tab means 18. This feature limits further forward movement of the metering rod (and consequently also limits further forward movement of the plunger rod and associated plunger). When this happens, only a single dose of the medicament has been dispensed from the cartridge, with the size of the dose determined by the location of the tab means in the cartridge. The Schmidt apparatus does not have such a feature. Rather, as pointed out above, Schmidt's apparatus involves use of a supply tube and a

separate metering chamber (which is of a predetermined volume for each dose). Schmidt does not describe "detent means being moveable by said trigger" as required in applicant's claims 1 and 5. Thus, Schmidt cannot support a Section 102(b) rejection of such claims.

With the present amendments to the claims, and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the Section 102(b) rejection has been overcome. Reconsideration and favorable action are courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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